



South Dakota Legislature

State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Senate Chamber

January 28, 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

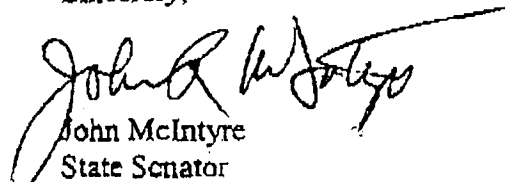
Dear Ms. Hesse:

The settlement agreement in U.S. v. Microsoft can result in a major benefit to education in South Dakota because of the children who would be identified to receive computer systems. I understand the settlement terms seek to send the systems to school districts where there are disproportionate numbers of children who qualify for the federal school lunch aid program. In South Dakota, there are quite a few school districts which would qualify under that criteria.

State government in South Dakota has focused on making internet use ubiquitous via the Wiring the Schools Program. Our state seeks to use long distance learning technologies to make sure our rural school districts are on even ground with the wealthier urban school districts. The availability of computer systems via the settlement will make this technique a reality for more and more children.

My letter is sent to support the settlement for the benefits it would bring children, and to express my hopes that this four-year-old lawsuit can be allowed to be put to rest. The settlement fairly and adequately addresses the pertinent issues in the lawsuit, and the settlement will allow good things to happen to children who need the help. Thank you.

Sincerely,


John McIntyre
State Senator
Legislative District 12